

The AT&T and T-Mobile should be prevented. This merger is harmful to consumers as it creates a duopoly in the telecommunications industry, which currently has four major players. This stifles consumer choice and reduces competition in the market, which will lead to increased prices at a time in which the country is still coming out of recession. If the merger goes through, AT&T after paying \$39 billion for the takeover, will want to breakeven as soon as possible on the merger, and will limit spending focused on innovation and the rolling out of 4G technology and will focus on combining the assets of the two companies which will take time. This will be harmful to consumers as progress and upgrades to infrastructure will be limited and slow. In addition, since there is a lack of CDMA providers outside the USA, this leaves frequent international travelers with no choice but to stick to GSM networks, which in the USA will mainly only be provided by AT&T.

AT&T is known to have poor customer service quality, while T-mobile has one of the best. A merger will move the quality of service backwards instead of forwards. As a customer, I was never hassled between changing between a variety of unlocked phones, one call and the corresponding data service was provided at no extra cost. AT&T pricing structure is not close to T-mobile's pricing structure and consumers will get less for the same or more expense.

AT&T is also known to 'control' what is allowed on devices and blocks certain services on its phone. It is known to prevent users from using VoIP services in the past, which kills these new technologies and ways to connect. With this merger, this negative trend will spread to more consumers, and eventually become the norm harming innovation and freedom of the internet.

Another question to ask is whether we can trust our wireless future in a company like AT&T. The company outgrows itself continually, and needs to buy out its competition to maintain 'good' quality service. It refuses to future proof its infrastructure, and pays outrageous sums for takeovers and killing its competition instead of investing it in its own networks and competing in the industry. It's time to look past the lobbying and comments of support from organizations/groups which have nothing to do with wireless industry and listen to the voice of the consumers who will actually be affected if this merger goes through.